Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, James McKinney will retire on May 2, 2009, culminating 29 years of distinguished and faithful service to South Dakota State University (SDSU) and to the people of South Dakota; and,

Whereas, James came to South Dakota State University in 1975, serving as assistant director of bands, director of the marching band, and percussion instructor until 1978; and,

Whereas, After a brief time away, James returned to SDSU in 1983, serving as director of bands and percussion instructor; and,

Whereas, James is credited with helping to build the SDSU music department into a strong, respected program and serving as a great ambassador for the state as his symphonic bands perform throughout the upper Midwest; and,

Whereas, James is perhaps best known as the director of the Pride of the Dakotas Marching Band, growing the size of the band from 200 to 400 members during his tenure, and has taken the band to a number of prestigious events here in South Dakota and around the country; and,

Whereas, James served as director of the All-State Music Camp on the SDSU campus for the last 14 summers, and also shares his time and talent in order to direct the Brookings Area Community Band, entertaining thousands with summer concerts in the park; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper as Governor to recognize this caring and giving person for his dedication to our young South Dakota citizens:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2, 2009, as

JAMES McKINNEY DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Ninth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State